Ninth Plan capacity expansion programmes are under way at Unchahar, Vindhyachal and Kayamkulam. Faridabad CCGT (400 MW) and Simhadri TPS (1000 MW) have recently been accorded investment approval by the Government of India and work has started at the Faridabad Project. Other projects of NTPC scheduled to add capacity in the Ninth Plan are Talcher-II (500 MW), Extension units at Anta (650 MW), Auraiya (650 MW), Kawas (650 MW) and Gandhar (650 MW). These projects are being processed for early investment approvals after the requisite inputs have been tied up and clearances are available.

(ii) The policy of private sector participation in power sector allows foreign equity participation upto 100%. Captive coal mines can also be set up for power generation.

(iii) CEA has accorded technoeconomic clearance to 30 power projects with a capacity of 16504 MW in the private sector. Many of these projects are likely to be posed for financial closure shortly. 20 projects with a capacity of 7498 MW are nearing financial closure.

(iv) CEA is expected to consider further new capacity addition of about 2500 MW for techno-economic clearance during the current year.

(v) Provision has been made of Rs. 897.50 crores during the current year for additional Domestic Budgetary Support for accelerating the commissioning of projects in the Central Sector. This includes a provision of Rs. 200 crores as interest subsidy to enable PFC to lend for renovation and modernisation of existing units and accelerated completion of ongoing projects in the State Sector.

(vi) The Bill to enable setting up of Central and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions has been introduced in the Parliament. This would enable State Electricity Boards to improve their financial position and help them to undertake new investments.

(vii) The Bill to allow private sector participation in transmission sector has been introduced in the Parliament.

(viii) The Government has set up a Standing Independent Group to establish parameters for negotiation of power projects proposed by foreign agencies/companies.

Review of Power situation in the Country

1060. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the power situation in the country;

(b) if so, the major initiatives proposed to be launched to improve the situation;

(c) whether Government propose to set up a Central Power trading Corporation; and

(d) if so, the details thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to assist the State Governments/the State Electricity Boards to step up generation during the current year, a short term plan viz. Programme for Accelerated Generation, Evacuation and Refurbishment (PAGER) has been initiated by the Ministry. The programme envisages concerted action to tackle the problems of fuel supply and its transportation, adoption of better plant level practices, improving the liquidity of

identified power stations so that regular payments are made to the fuel suppliers, its transporters and to the suppliers of spares, and removing the bottlenecks for evacuation of power. Ministry of Power has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Group consisting of representatives of Ministries fo Coal, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Railways and Shipping and Transport with Ministry of Power acting as convenor for rendering assistance to the States and for monitoring of their efforts in stepping up generation.

(c) and (d) The proposal has been discussed but details are yet to be finalised.

Limit for Indian Public Finance Institutes

1061. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed limit of 40% for Indian Public Finance Institutes in Power Project based on indigenous equipments;

(b) whether any representation for Gujarat have been received to relax the limit and to exclude funding from Indian Commercial Banks while calculating aggregate exposures of IPFIs; and

(c) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) The private power policy *inter alia* stipulates that an amount not exceeding 40% of the total outlay may come from Indian public financial institutions, but the remaining amount should be met from other sources. The Government of Gujarat had requested that Independent Power Producers (IPPs) sourcing equipment from indigenous suppliers should be exempted from this limit. This request is under consideration.

Proposal by Uttar Pradesh Government for Purchasing Power from private Power Houses

1062. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for power purchase by U.P. Government from private power houses has been pending with the Central Electricity Authority;

(b) if so, the status thereof;

(c) whether it has been considered; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (d) Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has already accorded techno-economic clearance to the Vishnuprayag Hydro-electric Power Project (400 MW) of M/s Jaiprakash Industries Ltd., and Rosa Thermal Power Project (Phase-I) (567 MW) of M/s Indo Gulf Fertilizers and Chemicals Corporation in Uttar Pradesh. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) submitted to CEA by M/s Jawaharpur Power India Limited for implementing the 2×400 MW Jawaharpur Thermal Power Project in district Etah in Uttar Pradesh was returned on 12.2.1997 as the project promoters were yet to tie up various inputs/clearances such as water availability clearance from Ministry of Environment & Forests, No Objection Certificate from National Airport Authority, land availability, fuel availability, etc.

Reduction of U.P.'s Share in Central Power Projects

1063. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the U.P.'s share in central power projects has been reduced from 35% to just 5%;